
With You



Established 1963

The Navy Rugby Football Club News Letter for Alumni and Friends

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All-Navy and USNA Navy Scrimmage

On Thursday, November 13th, Naval Academy Rugby fittingly celebrated the birthday of our Service by hosting the All-Navy Rugby Team in a friendly run-through scrimmage.



Naval Academy and All-Navy Ruggers hone their skills in scrimmage against each other on Oct. 13th, 2005.

The All-Navy team, coached by CDR Don Sheehan, and captained by LT Rob Sinram and AC1 Pat Wallace, had convened only a few days earlier at PAX River Naval Air Station for their tryouts and player's camp in preparation for the Armed Forces Tournament that was held in Camp Lejeune, NC. The training session and game scenarios with Coach Flanagan and Coach Coyner not only served as a trial for the All-Navy team and a chance to recruit future players from the Academy, but also gave the Academy staff the opportunity to look at some different player combinations prior to their match against George Mason that same weekend. "Being able to come back to the Naval Academy and scrimmage against some of the best college players in the country definitely served our team well, and we were able to see exactly what we had in some of our lesser known players," said LT Rob Sinram of the opportunity. Additionally Sinram said "having the outside coaching perspectives of two of the best collegiate and national level coaches in the U.S. obviously helps us greatly going into

Lejeune." Nine of the 25 players on the All-Navy team are alumni of USNA between the classes of 1997 and 2005. The scrimmage also gave the Academy forwards a chance to take their shots at one of their coaches, LT Ben Oakes, the All-Navy 8-man, for the long periods of time he puts them through their paces on the scrum sled. The All-Navy team survived the three day, five-game Armed Forces tournament by beating Coast Guard, the Marine Corps, and the Army; and finished 2nd to an All-Air Force team that was younger, more-fit, and had a deeper pool of reserves.



All-Navy & USNA alumni: (standing L-R) LT Mike Kinsella '98, ENS Scott Cleveland '05, ENS Jeff Pinny '04, LTJG Tate Metlen '03, (kneeling L-R) LT Rob Sinram '97, LT Ben Oakes '99, LTJG Dave Owens '03, LT Dan Freedman '97, ENS Morgan Halstead '04.

Army-Navy "Battle by the Bay" Approaches

Army and Navy will continue their rugby rivalry on Saturday, November 19th under the lights at Anne Arundel Community College. This will be the first time the game shall be played in Maryland. While certainly one of the biggest rivalries in college rugby, the fall classic is relatively new. While many memorable meetings have accrued during the national playoffs between Army and Navy, it was decided that this could no longer be the only way the two clubs could meet. Why not schedule each other for the fall? Then, November of 2002 saw the beginnings of the current fall setup with the first match being played in 'neutral' Philadelphia. The three November matches since have been split evenly between the two service academies, 1-1-1; Navy

won the 2002 edition, the 2003 match ended tied, and Army prevailed last November. We asked Navy's coach, Mike Flanagan, why this is such an important match. "As always we look forward to Army, ever a rugby power and a great opponent," Flanagan said. "I think this is a terrific event to conclude our fall season." The location change from Philadelphia to Maryland was also important to the coach. "This year will be special because we get to showcase the game here in Annapolis." Army's coach, Richard Polhlidal, could not be reached for comment after several attempts. So come out on the 19th of November to Anne Arundel Community College for three great matches. Gates open at 1400 for two U19 All-Star matches (EPRU vs. PRU) and then followed at 1930 by the feature grudge match, Army vs Navy.

Clubhouse Facelift Underway – A Work in Progress

The Club House is in the middle of a well-deserved renovation project this fall with the most notable improvement being a fresh coat of paint. Nearly five gallons of white paint were used to brighten up the space, most of it ending up on the walls with a small portion making its way on to some of our more enthusiastic painters (1/C **Chris "Gonzo" Gonzales** and 2/C **Dane Sagerholm**). The midshipmen also took away the Club's trophies to clean them up and repair them.

The deck is next on the agenda and will sport a nice painted finish. Also, the poster that you saw in a previous newsletter (used for Plebe Parent's Weekend) is being dry-mounted and framed and will hang in the Club House along with flags of South Africa, Ireland and Australia. Many of the photos seen on the Plebe Parent's Weekend poster are also included in the Club's first annual calendar, due out this fall.

LT Oakes is going to repaint the Navy Rugby Crest (something he originally did as a Mid) and the seniors are working on the final layout of the lockers, photos, plaques and trophies. Once complete, the renovated Club House will be a fine place to show off our Club's many accomplishments through the years as well as a place to prepare for the day's practice or match. Please make sure you check out our progress the next time you are in the area, we know you will like the improvements.

Alumni Rugger Banquet

During Homecoming Weekend (Nov 4th-6th) the Mids will host the Alumni Ruggers and significant others to what is hoped to be an annual event, a Fall Alumni Banquet. The banquet will be held in Hubbard Hall (the crew house) on Friday the 4th at 1900 to about 2130. The gathering is expected to reform at a local watering hole following the formal festivities. All who attend can expect comedy and other rugby hijinks. Plates are expected to be between \$20-25 depending on participation. Please RSVP to Asst-coach Bubba Lennerton at mjlenn@usna.edu or 410-293-6819 as soon as possible to ensure you're included in this event.

Coaches Corner

The fall moves on and so do we. We had a tough one verses AFA here on the 7th of Oct. Hard fought to be sure, but the weather and some adventurous passes conspired against us; final AFA 14, Navy 12. I'm confident we'll see them again and the result will be different. Next up was GMU in NOVA under the lights, great venue and another win, solid performances from **3/C Andrew Vagley**, the front row, and a kicking exhibition from **2/C Chase Hobby**.

Next up is U of MD in College Park. We are looking forward to our FIRST real Alumni Dinner, check the web site for details and if you can make it please join us. Bring that special other or your wife. It promises to be good fun telling all the lies that made us great.

GO NAVY BEAT ARMY

Mike
Coach Flanagan

*"Long-range planning does not deal
with future decisions, but with the future
of present decisions."* ~Peter F. Drucker

Rugby Excellence Foundation

Amid many inquiries about donating to Navy Rugby we're re-introducing the Rugby Excellence Foundation campaign in this news letter. The Foundation's efforts are directed toward building a Navy Rugby Complex across the river at the Naval Station. In addition it will also help fund future travel to future national and international competitions and provide for coaching that will help Navy continue to compete at the highest levels. For more information or to donate contact:

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Navy Rugby